



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: January 12, 2010
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

J-MACK FERRY SCHEDULED FOR DRY-DOCK SERVICE

Solano County— Beginning 12:00 noon on January 22, 2010, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will suspend service of the J-Mack Ferry in order to perform U.S. Coast Guard mandated maintenance services. The J-Mack, also known as the Steamboat Slough Ferry, provides around the clock service on State Route 220 between Ryer Island in Solano County and Grand Island in Sacramento County. The service interruption is expected to last until early March 2010.

The 41-year old ferry will be towed from the Delta Region to the Bay Ship and Yacht Facility in Alameda for dry-docking. During the dry-dock service, the J-Mack, a cable-drawn ferry, will receive repairs and upgrades to the vessel's mechanical and electrical systems, as well as a new coat of paint.

The J-Mack not only services the 400 residents of Ryer Island, but also the many visitors to the Delta Region. The J-Mack, which is 92 feet long and 39 feet wide, can carry up to 6 cars across the slough during its three minute trip. It is one of two free-of-charge ferries owned and operated by Caltrans. The other ferry, the Real McCoy, has been in service on the west side of Ryer Island on State Route 84 since 1946 and is scheduled to be replaced in fall 2010.

"The J-Mack and Real McCoy provide a vital service to the residents and the visitors of the Delta Region," said Bijan Sartipi, Caltrans District 4 Director. "Caltrans is dedicated to ensuring that these unique segments of highways 84 and 220 are in good service for the motoring public.

During the service interruption, motorists are advised to use the Real McCoy ferry as a detour. Caltrans will install detour and changeable message signs to help direct motorists. Please see attached flyer for more detour information.

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